

GENERAL NOTES

Gannet in eastern Indiana.—On December 5, 1947, a Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) was found by Mrs. Sparkle Crowe at the side of State Road 22, about three miles northwest of Portland, Jay County, Indiana. The Gannet had no obvious injury, was able to walk about, and it defended itself with its beak; it was kept alive for several days but apparently took no food. The stomach was empty and the body somewhat emaciated. The only mark of injury was a bare area about eight by two inches, extending diagonally across the breast. This suggested that the Gannet had flown into a wire. The specimen was a male in the speckled, yearling plumage. The bird and information on its capture was given to me by P. R. Macklin, of Portland. The skin is now in the Purdue University Wildlife Laboratory collection.

The only other record I find for Indiana is given by Butler (1906. *Auk*, 23:274) of an immature Gannet taken on Lake Michigan two miles from Michigan City in November 1904. The recent record for Indiana approximately coincides with records for Ontario and Ohio in the 1947 Christmas Bird Count (1948. *Audubon Field Notes*, 2, No. 2). On December 14 an immature Gannet was seen at Hamilton, Ontario. Another immature was caught alive at Toledo, Ohio, on December 22, and two individuals (ages not given) were reported at Cleveland, December 27.—CHARLES M. KIRKPATRICK, *Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana*.

A Pleistocene record for *Mergus merganser* in Illinois.—From excavations for the North Shore Channel of the Chicago drainage system F. C. Baker ("Life of the Pleistocene or Glacial Period," 1920, pp. 37, 85, 100, 109, 190, 394) obtained a nearly complete right humerus of a bird identified by R. W. Shufeldt as *Mergus serrator*. In September 1946, Leverett A. Adams, of the Zoological Museum, Urbana, Illinois, showed me this specimen, and subsequently he forwarded it to Washington for more critical examination.

The bone is dark brown in color, lighter at the ends, and is complete except for a jagged break in the shaft, probably made when the specimen was exhumed. On careful comparison I find that it is *Mergus merganser*, rather than *Mergus serrator*. It is the second record of *M. merganser* for the Pleistocene, the bird being known also from the Fossil Lake deposits of Oregon.

When specimens of the same sex of *merganser* and *serrator* are compared, the humerus in *merganser* is seen to be longer, the bone in three males measuring from 92 to 96 mm., and in three females from 85.5 to 89.3 mm. In three males of *serrator*, it measures 86.3 to 89.6 mm.; and in one female, 81.6 mm. The shaft is also slightly heavier in *merganser*. Since the fossil is 88 mm. in length, on this character it might be either the female of *merganser* or the male of *serrator*.

In the humerus of *merganser* the raised line toward the head of the shaft that forms the scar for the attachment of the muscle latissimus dorsi posterioris lies close to the upper side of the outer face. In *serrator* this line descends lower, and at a sharper angle, to or nearly to the center of this face. The fossil agrees with *merganser* in this character, and also has the slightly more robust shaft found in that bird. It is identified therefore as *M. merganser* (being similar in size to the female of *merganser*).

The fossil under discussion was found in the Wabash formation (late Pleistocene) at a spot 2,690 feet north of Foster Avenue, Bowmanville, a section now included in the city of Chicago, Illinois.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.*